

HOSPITAL REPORTS.**GENERAL SPINAL PARALYSIS, UNDER THE CARE OF DR. AIKINS.**

(Reported by William James).

Jonathan R, aged 35, was admitted into the Toronto General Hospital with the above affliction, on the 6th November last.

History of the case:—The patient was working in the bottom of a well, and while the bucket, half filled with water, was in the act of ascending and had reached about half way to the surface (20 ft.), something above gave way, the bucket falling and striking him, when he was, it is thought, stooped somewhat forward. It appears to have first struck the occiput, as there is a transverse wound about three inches in length, penetrating the pterion to the bone. It is supposed to have then glanced off and struck the back of the neck in the neighbourhood of the 7th cervical vertebra. This is confirmed by the patient's own statement, that the bucket was on the back of his neck when he first regained consciousness. Examination, however, failed to detect any fracture.

Had priapism the day he was admitted. It was found that there was complete paralysis, both sensory and motor of all the body, anterior as well as posterior, from three inches above the nipple, downwards. The right upper extremity was also completely paralyzed. The left was in a similar condition, except that he could rotate the forearm of that side. Respiration is purely diaphragmatic, no motion of the ribs except at the lower part of the chest, and this is caused by the diaphragm. Bladder and rectum are paralyzed, feces pass involuntarily, and the catheter is used twice a day. Pulse—full, soft, and rapid. He speaks quite rationally when interrogated.

9th.—Redness of integument over the nates and trochanters, and a small bed sore on the right outer malleolus, notwithstanding that he has had the benefit of an air bed.

16th.—Patient continues about the same, with the exception of a slight cough. No more bed sores, and those which appeared during the first 48 hours are apparently healing. He eats and sleeps well.

24th.—Priapism again to-day, and on tickling the soles of his feet the muscles of the thigh were observed to twitch.